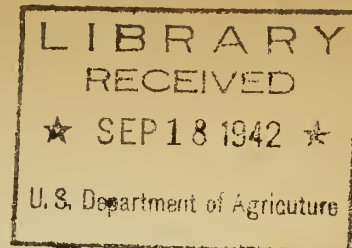


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REDUCING EGG LOSSES



Broadcast by Robert Slocum, Agricultural Marketing Administration and Wallace Kadderly, Radio Service, in the Department of Agriculture's portion of the National Farm and Home Hour, Wednesday, August 12, 1942, over stations associated with the Blue Network.

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KADDERLY:

Now for that information on eggs.

When this year's food production goals were set up, an increase of 13% over 1941 egg production was called for. That meant more eggs than we ever produced before in one year. Poultrymen are meeting that challenge. So far this year they are ahead of the production called for. But, as we have said many times, we need every egg that can be produced; and right there we run up against the fact that every year about five percent of our eggs are lost somewhere between the hen and the frying pan. Some of that loss can be prevented by the poultrymen. How? Well, we'll talk it over with Rob Slocum of the Department's Agricultural Marketing Administration. He has followed the egg-loss problem for many years.

Rob -- the last report I saw showed that egg production this year probably will reach the tremendous total of 4 1/2 billion dozen -- about 50 billion eggs --

SLOCUM: dozen

Yes, 4 1/2 billion/ eggs is about the size of it. Wallace, I believe you're doing some mental figuring on the number of eggs which will be lost this year.

KADDERLY:

That's it exactly, Rob, I can't quite get the zero's figured out -- You know (CHUCKLE) there are a lot of them in a billion.

SLOCUM:

Well, I've relied on my pencil and pad and I find that in the five months ahead of us, poultrymen stand to lose about 72 million dozen eggs.

KADDERLY:

Seems rather high --

SLOCUM:

It is high and represents a loss of money and food which I don't think we can very well afford.

KADDERLY:

And cutting down that loss of 72 million dozen is up to the farm flock owner -- because nine out of every 10 eggs needed between now and the end of the year will be produced by farm flocks.

(over)

SLOCUM:

Yes, very definitely the problem of egg losses has its beginning with the small poultrymen. And while the losses on his farm, and in later handling may seem small, add them up on a national scale and you can readily see that here is one of the limiting factors in getting enough eggs to meet all our needs. There's a difference between producing eggs and getting those eggs on the market.

KADDERLY:

What suggestions do you have, Rob, that will help to reduce these losses?

SLOCUM:

There are a number of things poultrymen can do -- things which don't require much of an outlay of money either. First of all, while a fresh egg isn't always a good egg, it's in as good a condition as it will ever be. The longer you keep an egg the more it deteriorates. So, the first thing to do is to market eggs frequently -- at least twice a week and better still, three times. Take them along with you when you go to town or give them to your neighbor to take along.

KADDERLY:

I don't mean to question that idea Rob, but you know most small poultrymen can't fill up an egg case that often two or three times a week.

SLOCUM:

I'll grant you that, but if you keep the eggs for a week or more before you send 'em to market, you're bound to have low quality eggs and probably some unfit for eating. This is a problem which can only be worked out by the individual poultryman. Another good practice to follow is to gather the eggs frequently.

KADDERLY:

Particularly if they're fertile eggs.

SLOCUM:

Yes, roosters are the enemies of quality eggs for market.

KADDERLY:

More rooster dinners would help out on that problem. Rob, keeping eggs clean is always a problem -- and one that we shouldn't overlook when we talk about egg losses. Seems that there just isn't any miraculous dirt preventive.

SLOCUM:

I'll vouch for that -- just a few weeks ago, I visited the farm of a friend of mine -- good poultryman too, and found myself cleaning eggs every day or so. But that isn't good practice. The best thing to do is to prevent dirty eggs by keeping the litter as dry and clean as you can. And above all, provide plenty of clean nests. Another thing that's helpful -- keep the hens confined to the house on rainy days when the ground is muddy. Keep them in until afternoon when most of the eggs will have been laid.

KADDERLY:

And what about storing eggs on the farm before taking them to market?

SLOCUM:

Keep them in a cool, fairly moist room, free from strong odors. And don't pack the eggs in the cases until they are cool. All of these suggestions, frequent marketing, clean surroundings, and proper cooling -- and one other -- careful handling and packing -- small end down in the crate -- all these will help to keep down egg losses.

SLOCUM: (Continuing)

Eggs are perishable. It's my opinion that the reason for a good part of the five percent egg loss every year is our failure to realize and act accordingly. It's both patriotic and profitable to reduce egg losses.

KADDERLY:

Farm and Home Friends -- these suggestions on stopping egg losses were made by Rob Slocum of the Agricultural Marketing Administration in the Department of Agriculture. He said that we stand to lose 72 million dozen out of our record egg production during the next five months. You poultrymen have met the challenge of increasing the number of eggs produced. Saving those eggs is a hurdle to get over if we are to get all those eggs to the people who need and want them -- our fighting men, our Allies, and civilians here at home.

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